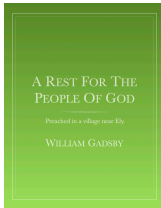


SOVEREIGN GRACE CHURCH

September 17th, 2017

“...the preaching of the
cross is to them that
perish foolishness”
(1 CORINTHIANS 1:18)



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September 17th, 2017

Schedule of Services

Sunday School 10:00 am

Sunday Worship 11:00 am

Wednesday Worship 7:00 pm

Nursery

Nursery available for 4 years old and younger

Happy Birthday!

Lindsey Woods - 18th, Eugene Philley - 20th, Amos Luman - 23rd

This evening's podcast will be from PASTOR EMERITUS JACK SHANKS

EPHESIANS 5:17-6:6 — SUBMITTING

To find our podcast search for the keyword **PurposedGrace** on



Apple's **Podcast App** or



Google's **Play Music App**

***Our featured sermon is made available each Sunday at 6:00 PM**

*** **SPECIAL MEETINGS** *** **We're All Invited!**

LINCOLN WOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

FRI, OCT 6TH @ 7:30 PM, SAT, OCT 7TH @ 6:30 PM, SUN, OCT 8TH @ 10:00 AM

PASTOR **DAVID PLEDGER**, PASTOR **DONNIE BELL**, & PASTOR **MARVIN STALNAKER**

THE LORD DELIGHTETH IN THEE

"THOU SHALT NO MORE BE TERMED FORSAKEN; NEITHER SHALL THY LAND ANY MORE BE TERMED DESOLATE: BUT THOU SHALT BE CALLED HEPHZIBAH, AND THY LAND BEULAH: FOR THE LORD DELIGHTETH IN THEE, AND THY LAND SHALL BE MARRIED."

(ISAIAH 62:4)

To "delight in someone" is to find and derive pleasure and joy from knowing him or her in pleasant, sweet relationship and fellowship. It is no great mystery that God the Father and God the Son abide in perpetual delight with each other, being in perfect union and agreement in all holiness and righteousness. Behold my Servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth (ISAIAH 42:1).

However, in our text verse, God the Spirit makes the astounding declaration and promise of God's love, delight and perpetual union to those who were by situation and identity *Forsaken* and *Desolate*. This

wonderful, unmerited, eternal promise and favor of grace and mercy is surely the best word from God that one of such circumstance has ever, or will ever, experience! This is truly a marvel of God's redeeming grace in Christ Jesus our Lord. God has never changed his affection for his people as we are from everlasting viewed and accepted by him in Christ. He has always delighted in his children, for the Lord delighteth in thee.

He manifested his delight in us in the life and death of his blessed Son. Our sin and depravity was no hindrance to Him. He is gracious unto him, and saith, Deliver him from going down to the pit: I have found a ransom (JOB 33:24). Furthermore, he delights in his people as we by faith come to Christ and worship him in Spirit and in truth. We delight in him as the direct and effectual result of his delight in Christ and we in Him.

Our Lord has identified himself with his people and made known his delight in us; accordingly, we are no longer termed and called Forsaken. We are called Hephzibah—My delight is in her. Neither do we abide in a land of Desolation, we live in Beulah—married—in a land favored and blessed of the Lord, united to him who loves, and has given himself for, his bride.

PASTOR TOMMY ROBBINS (1948-2011)

“WITH HIM”

“...THEY THAT ARE WITH HIM ARE CALLED, AND CHOSEN, AND FAITHFUL.”

(REVELATION 17:2)

Beloved, you have been *called*. God our Father has declared “*I will call them my people, which were not my people; and her beloved, which was not beloved.*” Indeed, our heavenly Father declares of His people, that He “*saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.*” [ROMANS 9:25, 2 TIMOTHY 1:9]

Beloved, you have been *chosen*. God the Son, our blessed redeemer, has asked the Father in the covenant of grace—give me not the righteous to save, but sinners. He declares “*I came to call sinners to repentance.*” Indeed, he says to His people “*Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you.*”

Beloved, you have been made *faithful*. God the Spirit, the promised comforter, has come and made it known to us, that we are no longer servants of sin, but *servants of righteousness*. Our inheritance is this: that our faithfulness, our righteousness is of *Him*, who is always *faithful*, never *fails*, and has never *fallen*! AMEN! (1 COR 1:30-31, ROMANS 6:18)

The Lord is pleased to quicken His people and make known to them, that from the beginning He has chosen them to salvation and ordained that they believe the Truth. Beloved, He has *called* you, and *chosen* you, and made you, through the merits of His beloved Son, *faithful in His sight, with Him*. AMEN! (Read ACTS 13:48, COLOSSIANS 1:22)

PASTOR

THE OFFENCE OF THE CROSS

“...I, BRETHREN, IF I YET PREACH CIRCUMCISION, WHY DO I YET SUFFER PERSECUTION?
THEN IS THE OFFENCE OF THE CROSS CEASED.” (GALATIANS 5:11)

Paul called his message “*the offence of the cross*” (GALATIANS 5:11).

Again and again he warned that the true Gospel of God’s grace and glory would meet with great opposition from the religious world and the natural world.

“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;” (1 CORINTHIANS 1:18).

Our Lord said, *“Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you”* (1 JOHN 3:14).

He also said, *“They shall put you out of the synagogues; yea, the time cometh that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service”* (JOHN 16:2).

If what we preach is NOT offensive to the religionist and to the worldling, then it is NOT the Gospel of Christ.

I repeat, it is NOT the Gospel!

1. **GOD’S ABSOLUTE SOVEREIGNTY** in creation, providence and redemption offends man’s claim to free will! *“We will not have this man to REIGN over us”* (LUKE 19:14).

2. The preaching of **TOTAL DEPRAVITY AND INABILITY** offends man’s dignity and claim to personal righteousness. *“We be not born of fornication,”* that is, *“We be not (they say) born in sin. We may not be perfect but we are not totally corrupt in God’s sight.”*

3. The Gospel of Christ comes by **REVELATION**, and this offends man’s natural wisdom. The college professor knows as much about the mysteries of grace as the farmhand, which is nothing apart from the Spirit of God.

4. **EFFECTUAL REDEMPTION** through the Person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ, our Substitute and Sin-offering, offends man’s pride. Men would have God do all that He wants to do and all that He can do, but there must be a work left for the sinner to perform, that we might share somewhat in the glory.

5. **THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST** offends man’s desire for recognition here and hereafter. *“They said unto Him grant unto us that we may sit, one on the right hand, and the other on Thy left hand, in glory”* (MARK 10:37).

“Let us have a system of rewards to distinguish us in some way from the beggar.” Sadly, men have established their social levels here and presume to continue them in heaven.